

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method to increase the hot carcass weight of ~~a meat-producing animal~~ cattle, comprising the steps of:

providing a feed composition consisting of 73.5 weight percent dried citrus pulp, 21.5 weight percent Vitamin C, and 5 weight percent molasses;

orally administering one pound of said feed composition one time to each of said animal cattle about 16 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said animal cattle; and

preparing a hot carcass from each of said harvested animal cattle.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

5. Canceled.

6. Canceled.

7. (currently amended) A method to increase the pH of a meat product obtained from a ~~meat-producing animal~~ cattle, comprising the steps of:

providing a feed composition consisting of 73.5 weight percent dried citrus pulp, 21.5 weight percent Vitamin C, and 5 weight percent molasses;

orally administering one pound of said ~~feed~~ composition one time to each of said ~~animal~~ cattle about 16 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said ~~animal~~ cattle; and

preparing said meat product from each of said harvested ~~animal~~ cattle.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

10. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

11. Canceled.

12. Canceled.

13. (currently amended) A method to increase the water content of a meat product obtained from a ~~meat-producing animal~~ cattle, comprising the steps of:

providing a feed composition consisting of 73.5 weight percent dried citrus pulp, 21.5 weight percent Vitamin C, and 5 weight percent molasses;

orally administering one pound of said feed composition one time to said animal about 16 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said animal; and

preparing said meat product from each of said harvested ~~animal~~ cattle.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

16. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

17. Canceled.

18. Canceled.

19. (currently amended) A method to decrease the drip loss from a meat product obtained from ~~a meat-producing animal~~ cattle, comprising the steps of:

providing a feed composition consisting of 73.5 weight percent dried citrus pulp, 21.5 weight percent Vitamin C, and 5 weight percent molasses;

orally administering one pound of said feed composition one time to each of said ~~animal~~ cattle about 16 hours prior to harvest;

harvesting said ~~animal~~ cattle; and

preparing said meat product from each of said harvested ~~animal~~ cattle.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said Vitamin C comprises phosphorylated ascorbic acid.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein said phosphorylated ascorbic acid is selected from the group consisting of mono-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, di-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tri-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, tetra-phosphorylated ascorbic acid, and mixtures thereof.

22. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein said Vitamin C comprises a sulfate ester of ascorbic acid.

23. Canceled.

24. Canceled.